

## The Mission of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County

It shall be the mission of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County to acquire, hold, and maintain lands within Kane County, which contribute to the preservation of natural and historic resources and habitats, flora or fauna; to restore, restock, protect and preserve such lands for the education, recreation, and pleasure of all its citizens.

The Kane County Forest Preserve District uses the necessary tools to improve and maintain the quality of biodiversity within its forest preserves. It's duty is to uphold its mission to restore and preserve the valuable species of flora. Prescribed burning is one method that insures the growth of these authentic flowers and plants that play a vital role in refreshing the ecosystem of the forest preserves.

For more information about controlled burns in your area, please contact the Forest Preserve District of Kane County at (630) 232-5980.



Kane County Forest Preserve District  
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## CONTROLLED BURNS: A PRESCRIPTION FOR HABITAT HEALTH



KANE COUNTY FOREST  
PRESERVE DISTRICT

## The Role of Fire in Habitat Restoration

### **Why are fires necessary for healthy habitats?**

Fire is a natural phenomenon essential for healthy native ecosystems. Throughout history, lightning sparked natural fires, performing a “house cleaning” function for nature. Local oak woodlands and prairies depend on periodic fires to maintain their aesthetic appearance.

### **How does fire help to restore local wildlife?**

By burning specific parts of the woods, wetlands and prairies, fires help to release nutrients from burned plant materials.

Fires also clear out weedy plants that choke burr oaks and other native trees. Just as importantly, the controlled fires open the woodland floor to sunshine so that native wildflowers and plants can flourish. This procedure is done in effort to help bring back diverse communities of plants and animals as well as creating an attractive natural area for people to enjoy.



## Planning and Conducting Controlled Burns

Each spring and fall, trained staff conduct controlled burns, also known as prescribed burns, at several sites across Kane County. Before a burn, trained personnel survey the burn site and create a detailed plan of action. Then they carefully monitor the weather and wait until conditions are right, minimizing the chance of smoke blowing toward houses and roads. Staff also inform residents so people with health concerns can avoid the smoke.



Local prairies, woodland and wetlands require periodic fires to encourage the growth of native trees and wildflowers. Many local wildflowers thrive after a burn. After the controlled burn, the reinvigorated natural areas provide habitat for wildlife and increase air and water quality.

